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A. Service, 30 years or more; annuity, 60 per cent. of salary; maximum, \$720; minimum, \$360.

B. Service, 27 years; annuity 54 per cent. of salary; maximum, \$648; minimum, \$324.

C. Service, 24 years; annuity, 48 per cent. of salary; maximum, \$576; minimum, \$288.

D. Service, 21 years; annuity, 42 per cent. of salary; maximum, \$504; minimum, \$252.

E. Service, 18 years; annuity, 36 per cent. of salary; maximum, \$432; minimum, \$216.

F. Service, 15 years; annuity, 30 per cent. of salary; maximum, \$360; minimum, \$180.

Employees to whom the retirement provisions of the act apply shall, within 90 days of the passage of the act or within 90 days after reaching the retirement age, be automatically separated from the service. In cases where the responsible administrative officers certify to the Civil Service Commission that employees who have reached the retirement age but by reason of efficiency and willingness to remain may be advantageously continued in the public service, such employees may be retained for successive terms of two years.

Beginning with August 1, 1920, there will be withheld each month  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the basic salary of each employee in the classified service.

#### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Frank Shipley Collins, an American authority on the algæ, of Leonard Doncaster, recently elected professor of biology at Liverpool, of Augusto Righi, the Italian physicist, and of Clement Arkadievitch Timiriaeff, emeritus professor of botany in the University of Moscow.

THE Royal Society of Arts has conferred its Albert Medal on Dr. A. A. Michelson, professor of physics in the University of Chicago.—Cambridge University has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of laws upon Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

ON the recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences the Barnard medal for meritorious service to science has been conferred by Columbia University on Professor Albert Einstein, of Berlin, in recognition "of his highly original and fruitful development of the fundamental concepts of physics through application of mathematics."—The Willard Gibbs medal has been presented to Dr. Frederick G. Cottrell, director of the United States Bureau of Mines, from the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society.

PROFESSOR JOHN C. MERRIAM, of the University of California, was elected president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington on May 25, to succeed Dr. R. S. Woodward, who will retire at his own request at the end of the year, after sixteen years of service. Dr. Merriam is professor of paleontology and dean at the University of California.—The National Research Council has elected as chairman for the year beginning on May 1, Dr. H. A. Bumstead, professor of physics and director of the Sloane physical laboratory at Yale University, and as permanent secretary Dr. Vernon Kellogg, professor of entomology, at Stanford University.